

## Office of Chief Lee W. Russo

3575 South Market Street, West Valley City, Utah, 84119

## Cold Weather Car Thieves Target "Puffers"

DATE: November 18, 2014

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When the cold weather hits, auto thefts heat up and often times, this crime is preventable. Many people start their cars and leave them running in the drive-way to warm up, called "puffing" by criminals. To a criminal, this is like leaving a pile of cash sitting in your driveway. A running car is an opportunity that just falls into his lap. He will take it, even if he is not by profession an automobile thief.

Stolen cars, vans, trucks, and motorcycles cost victims time and money — and increase everyone's insurance premiums. They're also used to commit other crimes. Don't be a victim of this serious crime. West Valley Police will offer members of the media a ride-along with our patrol officers to look for "puffers" as well as the opportunity to interview WVCPD Chief Lee Russo about the seasonal increase in auto thefts and ways to make yourself a less likely target during the high risk winter months.

What: Patrol officer ride-along followed by interview opportunity with Police Chief Lee Russo

Where: Meet at West Valley Police Department, 3575 South Market Street, WVC

When: Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00am